

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTO 02303 120625Z  
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 /056 W  
-----130612Z 044321 /12  
R 112122Z MAY 77  
FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 618  
INFO AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SANTO DOMINGO 2303

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: SHUM, PINT, SOPN, DR  
SUBJ: PRESIDENT BALAGUER REQUESTS LIFTING OF RADIO AND TELEVISION  
PROHIBITIONS AGAINST PENA GOMEZ AND CASIMIRO CASTRO

1. PRESIDENT BALAGUER HAS ASKED THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS TO LIFT THE PROHIBITION AGAINST THE USE OF RADIO AND TELEVISION BY JOSE FRANCISCO PENA GOMEZ AND PABLO RAFAEL CASIMIRO CASTRO, LEADERS OF THE OPPOSITION PARTIDO REVOLUCIONARIO DOMINICANO (PRD). BOTH HAD BEEN BANNED FROM THE AIR SINCE JULY 1974 ON GROUNDS THAT THEY HAD USED RADIO AND TELEVISION TO PROMOTE SUBVERSION. THE SUSPENSION FOLLOWED PENA'S REMARKS ON RADIO THAT PRD WOULD HAVE LAUNCHED INSURRECTION AND NOT BOYCOTTED 1974 ELECTIONS IF PRD HAD HAD "A COLONEL WHO WANTED TO COVER HIMSELF WITH GLORY". (1974 SANTO DOMINGO 2854.) THE PRESIDENT'S REQUEST IS TANTAMOUNT TO AN ORDER.

2. IN HIS MAY 10 LETTER TO THE DIRECTOR GENERAL, MADE PUBLIC TODAY, PRESIDENT BALAGUER OBSERVED THAT PENA HAD RECENTLY ADOPTED AN ATTITUDE FAVORING ELECTIONS AND THAT HIS RECENT STATEMENTS HAD BEEN "OBVIOUSLY CONSTRUCTIVE". IN A RATHER SURPRISING PASSAGE OF THE LETTER THE PRESIDENT NOTED THAT PENA WAS THE ONLY PERSON IN THE PRD WITH POPULARITY AND ROOTS IN KNOWN SECTORS

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OF DOMINICAN SOCIETY. THE PRESIDENT SAID HE HAD NO DOUBT OF THE SINCERITY OF PENA'S ATTACHMENT TO THE CAUSES OF ESSENTIAL SOCIAL CHANGES WITHIN THE LAW. HE CALLED UPON RADICAL GROUPS IN THE COUNTRY TO FOLLOW PENA'S EXAMPLE AND SEEK SOLUTIONS TO THE NATION'S PROBLEMS THROUGH LEGAL MEANS.

3. COMMENT: LIFTING OF THESE PROHIBITIONS NOW CLEARS THE

SLATE. IT FOLLOWED THE RETURN OF MARCIO MEJIA RICART AND  
ERCILIO VELOZ BURGOS TO THE AIR AFTER SHORTER PERIODS OF BANNING.  
THE RELAXATION OF THESE MEASURES FOLLOWS SEVERAL PREVIOUSLY  
REPORTED MEASURES REFLECTING INCREASED DOMINICAN SENSITIVITY TO  
USG EMPHASIS ON HUMAN RIGHTS. (A CLOSE ADVISOR OF PRESIDENT SENT  
CHARGE A COPY OF THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER WITH THE COMMENT THAT IT  
COULD BE USEFUL FOR AMBASSADOR'S FILES.) IT ALSO COMES AT A TIME  
WHEN THE ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN IS BEGINNING TO WARM UP. THE GOVERN-  
MENT WOULD HAVE FELT INCREASING PRESSURES FROM AT HOME AND ABROAD  
IF IT HAD CONTINUED THE RESTRICTIONS MUCH LONGER.  
AXELROD

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Subject:** PRESIDENT BALAGUER REQUESTS LIFTING OF RADIO AND TELEVISION PROHIBITIONS AGAINST PENA GOMEZ AND CASIMIRO CASTRO  
**TAGS:** SHUM, PINT, SOPN, DR, (PENA GOMEZ, JOSE FRANCISCO), (CASIMIRO CASTRO, PABLO RAFAEL)  
**To:** STATE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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